

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 002001

O 181309Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6528

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02685

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR AO US CG ZA

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE AND RECOGNITION
OF THE MPLA

REF: STATE 37663 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY. A SENIOR WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIAL HAS TOLD US THAT THE FRG WILL ATTEMPT TO ASSIST
ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE BUT IS FEELING EXACERBATEEXORABLY DRIVEN
TOWARD RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA IN ANGOLA. END SUMMARY.

1. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR TODAY CALLED ON FRG FOREIGN
MINISTRY POLITICAL DIRECTOR LAHN AND GAVE HIM THE VIEWS
CONTAINED IN REFTEL. LAHN SAID THE FRG WAS THINKING
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ALONG THE SAME LINES AND WOULD TRY TO INCREASE AID TO

ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE. HE SAID THE ZAIRE FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. NGUZA, MET WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT YESTERDAY BUT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY ASK FOR ASSISTANCE. A ZAMBIAN DELEGATION IS NOW VISITING BONNAND THE FRG IS TRYING TO DEVELOP FURTHER ASSISTANCE PLANS. AS A FIRST STEP, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS RECOMMENDING THAT PLANNED PROJECT AID BE CONVERTED TO COMMODITY ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO GIVE IMMEDIATE HELP TO ZAMBIA. THE FINANCE MINISTRY MUST APPROVE THIS.

2. COMMENTING FURTHER ON NGUZA'S VISIT, LAHN SAID NGUZA HAD GIVEN SCHMIDT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM MOBUTU: "WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS; DO NOT FORGET US; DO NOT LET US DOWN." NGUZA HAD SAID THAT ZAIRE WAS POSING THREE CONDITIONS FOR RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA: FIRST, THE MPLA MUST NOT INSTIGATE CIVIL WAR IN ZAIRE BY INFILTRATING THE KATANGA GENDARMERIE; SECOND, THE MPLA MUST KEEP THE BENGUELA RAILROAD OPEN AND MUST NOT USE IT AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR BLACKMAIL; AND, THIRD, THE MPLA MUST GET THE CUBANS OUT.

3. AS FAR AS EC AND FRG RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA WAS CONCERNED, LAHN SAID THERE WRSNOW NO EC POSITION BUT ALL COUNTRIES WERE MOVING TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA. AFTER THE FRENCH ACTION, WHICH THE FRG HAD TRIED TO DELAY, THE GERMANS HAD TRIED TO GET A COMMON EC TIMING ON RECOGNITION PRIMARILY IN ORDER TO SHOW UP THE FRENCH. EVEN THAT, HOWEVER, HAS PROVEN IMPOSSIBLE.

4. LAHN SAID THAT THE NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK WOULD RECOGNIZE THE MPLA TODAY, GREAT BRITAIN BY MONDAY IF NOT BEFORE, BELGIUM AFTER A FRIDAY CABINET MEETING, AND ITALY PROBABLY TODAY AFTER A CABINET MEETING NOW GOING ON. HE SAID THAT JAPAN ALSO APPEARED DISPOSED TO

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6529
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RECOGNIZE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MAJORITY
OF THE EC THAT WAS NOW DEVELOPING. IN BRIEF, LAHN
OBSERVED, BY THE END OF THE WEEK ALMOST ALL EC NATIONS
WILL HAVE RECOGNIZED THE MPLA.

5. A GERMAN CABINET MEETING TODAY IS DISCUSSING THE
SITUATION THOUGH IT WILL NOT DECIDE ON RECOGNITION,
LAHN SAID. HOWEVER, LAHN EXPECTED THE FRG TO RECOGNIZE
THE MPLA BY NEXT MONDAY AT THE LATEST. HE SAID THE
FRG WAS UNDER SPECIAL PRESSURES BECAUSE THE GDR HAD AN
ACTIVE MISSION IN LUANDA AND BECAUSE THERE WAS CON-
SIDERABLE GERMAN PROPERTY IN ANGOLA.

6. LAHN SAID HE BELIEVED THAT, ONCE THE US CONGRESS
HAD DECIDED TO STOP ASSISTANCE, THE OUTCOME IN ANGOLA
WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME. IT WAS NOW NECESSARY TO
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SAVE WHAT COULD BE SAVED AND TO TRY TO CUT BACK
RUSSIAN INFLUENCE BY DEVELOPING A COUNTERVAILING
PRESENCE. HE RECALLED HOW THE US HAD BEEN ABLE TO
TURN THE SITUATION AROUND IN EGYPT.

7. LAHN ADDED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE MUCH FAITH IN MPLA
SELF RESTRAINT. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE CUBANS
WHO WERE NO LONGER NEEDED IN ANGOLA MIGHT BECOME
ACTIVE ELSEWHERE. HE SPECIFICALLY EXPRESSED CONCERN
ABOUT THE THREAT TO RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA, WHERE THE
MPLA WOULD FIND READY INSTRUMENTS FOR SUBVERSION.

8. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR POINTED OUT THE REASONS WHY
THE US HAD DELAYED ITS OWN RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA
AND WHY WE STILL WERE NOT PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE
(STATE 37563, NOTAL). LAHN SAID HE APPRECIATED THESE
ARGUMENTS AND THAT THE FRG HAD COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH
US IN OPPOSITION TO THE MPLA. HOWEVER, THE FRG COULD
NOT AFFORD TO REMAIN THE ONLY MAJOR EUROPEAN NATION
THAT HAD NOT RECOGNIZED LUANDA.
HILLENBRAND

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